

GEN Vessey signaled what relaxing our adherence to Common Article 3 of the Geneva Convention would do: "First, it would undermine the moral basis which has generally guided or conduct in war throughout our history. Second, it could give opponents a legal argument for the mistreatment of Americans being held prisoners in time of war."

I worked hard, along with many others of both parties, to pass the current version of the War Crimes Act. I think the current law is a good law, and the concerns that have been raised about it could best be addressed with minor adjustments, rather than with the sweeping changes suggested here.

In 1996, working with the Department of Defense, Congress passed the War Crimes Act to provide criminal penalties for certain war crimes committed by and against Americans. The next year, again with the Pentagon's support, Congress extended the War Crimes Act to violations of the baseline humanitarian protections afforded by Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions. Both measures were supported by a broad bipartisan consensus, and I was proud to sponsor the 1997 amendments.

The legislation was uncontroversial for a good reason. The purpose and effect of the War Crimes Act as amended was to provide for the implementation of America's commitment to the basic international standards we subscribed to when we ratified the Geneva Conventions in 1955. Those standards are truly universal: They condemn war criminals whoever and wherever they are.

That is a critically important aspect of the Geneva Conventions and our own War Crimes Act. When we are dealing with fundamental norms that define the commitments of the civilized world, we cannot have one rule for us and one for them, however we define "us" and "them."

I am disturbed by the draft legislation, which seems to narrow the scope of the War Crimes Act to exclude certain violations of the Geneva Conventions and which could have the effect of retroactively immunizing past violations that may have been committed by U.S. personnel.

The narrowing of these definitions have the potential effect of immunizing past war crimes. It also could well prevent us from prosecuting rogues who we all agree were out of line like the soldiers who mistreated prisoners at Abu Ghraib.

Many of the despicable tactics used in Abu Ghraib—the use of dogs, forced nudity, humiliation of various kinds—do not appear to be covered by the narrow definitions this draft would incorporate into the War Crimes Act. If this were the law, and the Abu Ghraib abuses had come to light after the perpetrators left the military, they might not have been brought to justice. The President and the Republican leader have conceded that the conduct at Abu

Ghraib was abhorrent, and the perpetrators did need to be brought to justice. I hope the President and Congressional Republicans will not now pass legislation that prevents us from bringing people who commit these same despicable acts to justice.

I recognize the concerns about American servicemen and women or government employees being subjected to prosecutions for conduct that could be seen as ambiguous. I believe the War Crimes Act, as is, would not support prosecutions for conduct that was less than abhorrent. Indeed, to date, the Bush Administration has not brought a single charge pursuant to the War Crimes Act.

I would support amending the War Crimes Act so that only "serious" violations of Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions were prosecutable under the War Crimes Act. This fix would address any legitimate fears without creating a list of covered conduct that excludes much of the conduct that is most troubling.

Let me be clear. There is no problem facing us about overzealous use of the War Crimes Act by prosecutors. In fact, as far as I can tell, the Ashcroft Justice Department and the Gonzales Justice Department have yet to file a single charge against anyone for violation of the War Crimes Act. Not only have they never charged American personnel under the Act, they have never used it to charge terrorists either.

The President and the Congress should not be in the business of immunizing people who have broken the law, made us less safe, turning world opinion against us, and undercutting our treaty obligations in ways that encourage others to ignore the protections those treaties provide to Americans. We should be very careful about any changes we make.

I yield the floor.

CRANIOFACIAL ACCEPTANCE MONTH

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I rise today to call attention to the fact that September has been designated as Craniofacial Acceptance Month. Craniofacial abnormalities are abnormalities that affect the skull and face. According to the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, "craniofacial defects are among the most common of all birth defects. These disorders are often devastating to parents and children alike. Surgery, dental care, psychological counseling, and rehabilitation may help ameliorate the problems, but often at a great cost and over many years." Victims of craniofacial anomalies usually have to endure many expensive procedures throughout their lifetimes, the costs of which can add up to cost millions of dollars.

Facial deformities give their victims a variety of aesthetic and developmental problems that differ in severity and occurrence. The common condi-

tion, cleft lip, an abnormality where the lip does not completely connect, can vary from a simple disconnect to a gaping opening that goes from the lip to the nose. It is easy to understand the developmental and respiratory problems this could present. Fortunately, this condition can usually be corrected through one or two simple reconstructive surgeries. But what about other anomalies that are not as easily corrected like craniosynostosis, a condition where the soft spots of an infant's skull close too early, hindering normal brain and skull growth? Or Goldenhar syndrome, where one side of the face is underdeveloped affecting the mouth, ear and jaw? Unfortunately these do not represent the most severe or rarest craniofacial defects.

At only 10 months old, Wendelyn Osborne, who grew up in the small town of Ashdown, AR, was diagnosed with Craniometaphyseal Dysplasia, or simply CMD. CMD is a rare affliction which affects only 200 people worldwide and was depicted in the 1985 movie "Mask" starring Cher. CMD involves an overgrowth of bone which never deteriorates. This caused, in her case, an abnormal appearance, bilateral facial paralysis and deafness. Other cases can include those characteristics as well as blindness and joint pain. Yet despite the challenges she has faced, Wendelyn's life has truly been blessed. Her life expectancy was only 14 years at birth, but after 17 reconstructive surgeries and two hearing aids, Wendelyn is still alive today at the age of 40. It was not until 2003 that Wendelyn was able to meet and interact with other people with craniofacial conditions. She attended the Annual Cher's Family retreat and was introduced to CCA, the Children's Craniofacial Association. Wendelyn saw the impact of support and encouragement through the programs and the families associated with CCA, and has been active with the organization ever since.

CCA has designated September as National Craniofacial Acceptance Month in hopes of raising awareness of individuals with facial differences. It is not a secret that appearance plays a key part in how individuals are accepted in our society. People with facial differences, in addition to medical problems, have a much harder time adjusting in society and developing successful relationships. Such individuals have to deal with a series of consequences that arise from uncontrollable circumstances of their birth. Marking September as National Craniofacial Acceptance Month brings attention to an issue that can no longer be ignored.

Hopefully, by raising awareness of craniofacial defects, our larger society will begin to show understanding and acceptance of those who live with these physical, medical, and emotional challenges. Understanding and increased

public awareness of craniofacial disorders and abnormalities would let people like Wendelyn Osborne and hundreds of thousands of innocent individuals know that they are not unwanted and not alone in their battle with craniofacial conditions. I would like to commend CCA on taking an important step to raise awareness about this issue. I join the Children's Craniofacial Association in looking forward to the day when our Nation will "look beyond the face, to the heart within." I salute the Children's Craniofacial Association, Wendelyn Osborne, and all of the children and adults who live with these challenges and the families and persons who support them.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR A. KROETCH

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Arthur A. Kroetch of Philip, SD, and his company Scotchman Industries, Inc. Scotchman Industries has enjoyed a long and rich history in my home State.

In October of 1956, Art Kroetch, with the help of his wife Eleanor, started a small scrap metal business in Philip. Since its start, Art's business has steadily progressed from a scrap metal business into an agricultural tool manufacturer, to a national machine tool manufacturer, and finally into what it is today, an industry leading, multinational machine tool manufacturer. Small businesses are the backbone of the great State of South Dakota and I commend Art not only for his success with Scotchman Industries, but also for his contributions to his community and State.

It gives me great pleasure to rise with the town of Philip in congratulating Scotchman Industries and Art Kroetch on 50 years of successful operation.●

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF JUNE COLLIER FLETCHER

• Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today I honor June Collier Fletcher, one of Alabama's most influential women, who died on September 9, 2006. She rose from a meager upbringing to become the president and CEO of National Industries, Inc. Once the largest private employer in Montgomery, June built National Industries from the ground up to become a major automotive supplier employing 5,000 Alabamians.

June's drive and ambition allowed her to become a leader in an industry dominated by men. Under her guidance and leadership, National Industries became a flourishing \$130 million-a-year electrical connection business.

Over the years, June was recognized for her hard work, dedication, and expertise and received numerous awards and accolades. She served as a member of the Commerce Department's prestigious Industrial Policy Advisory

Committee, testified before Congress on automotive issues, and was a sought-after speaker on the subject of international trade. June received the Industry Week Excellence in Management Award and was selected to the Committee of 200, an organization of the top 200 women business leaders in America.

In addition to her work in the automotive industry, she was also active in petroleum exploration and production, farming, and garment manufacturing. In the 1980s, June's company was awarded a government contract to produce chemical warfare protective clothing which was used during the first gulf war.

June was an inspiration to many and I am truly grateful for the endless contributions she made to Alabama and our Nation. She will be missed by her husband Tim Fletcher; her five children, Kara Davis, Ondi Cain, Roessler Collier, Arin Burroughs, Kohler Collier; her stepchildren, Tom Fletcher, Jr., Carrie Fletcher; her 12 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. She will also be missed by her many friends and the numerous people she worked with whose lives she touched throughout her magnificent journey.●

TRIBUTE TO TAMMY MAHAN

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, one of the great joys of my job as Senator is working closely with talented, dedicated Iowans from all walks of life. I would like to take a moment to salute one of those exceptional people, Tammy Mahan, an outstanding social worker, and a passionate advocate for adoption and foster care.

Tammy has dedicated her life to children, and has made a profound difference in the lives of countless foster and adopted youngsters in Iowa and across the United States. In her "day job," Tammy works at Children and Families of Iowa, where she is responsible for assisting foster parents through the licensing process.

A year ago, Tammy went beyond the call of duty by starting up a new organization in Des Moines called Elevate. Elevate is a growing team of young people who are active in a variety of important ways. They recruit families to foster or adopt teenagers. They educate legislators and the public about foster care and adoption. And they work to empower and increase the self-esteem of other teenagers who join the team as advocates. Elevate is doing wonderful things nationwide to encourage foster care and adoption. And the young people who are active in Elevate are just fantastic; they are passionate about their work, and they are setting a wonderful example for their peers.

I am deeply grateful to Tammy Mahan for all that she is doing in the community. By the way, Tammy and her husband Mitchell, are adoptive parents of two children. While it is easy for some professionals to talk the talk of youth empowerment and improving

the system, Tammy and her family are walking the walk. Ghandi said that "You must be the change you want to see in the world." And that is exactly what Tammy and the young people of Elevate are doing.

This week, Tammy Mahan is in Washington to be honored for her outstanding public service. She is receiving a 2006 "Angel in Adoption" award from the Congressional Coalition on Adoption. This is an honor richly deserved. I congratulate Tammy, and I salute not only her work but also the good work being done by all the young activists in Elevate.●

HONORING DR. EDGAR WAYBURN

• Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I join with friends and associates across the country to honor the 100th birthday on September 17 of Dr. Edgar Wayburn of San Francisco. From the time that his appreciation of the American landscape began in Macon, GA, to his role today as honorary president of the Sierra Club, Dr. Wayburn has built a lifetime of conservation activism that has immeasurably benefited our country and the world.

Across our Nation, 100,000,000 acres of some of the most beautiful landscape in the world are protected for future generations thanks in large part to the dedicated efforts of Dr. Wayburn. Never a full-time conservationist, Dr. Wayburn has dedicated weekends and hours away from his medical practice to protecting our wild lands and wildlife.

From the Mount Tamalpais State Park in California to Admiralty Island in southeastern Alaska, Dr. Wayburn's accomplishments read as an honor roll of conservation achievements. He has been a true visionary in promotion of conservation and has inspired countless other Americans.

One example in particular uniquely epitomizes Dr. Wayburn's legacy. Driving out of San Francisco International Airport, you face west toward the hills of San Mateo County. Beyond those hills, along the coast for more than 10 miles to the south and for 75 miles to the north stands one of our country's most majestic national parks—the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. The park encompasses 80,000 acres in 3 counties and lies adjacent to Point Reyes National Seashore; thus more than 150,000 acres are preserved for habitat and wildlife and are enjoyed by more than 20 million people every year. Dr. Wayburn played an instrumental part in the founding of both of these national parks.

For over 100 years, the U.S. military fortified the region now home to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. But in the 1960s the military became aware that its bunkers and missiles had little value for our Nation's defense and made plans to sell parts of the area's installations and fortifications.

Bay Area residents were determined that this magnificent landscape not be